

ocratic candidates received last week. But that is just how we feel about it. Pennsylvania has been plundered and misgoverned because the Republican machine there has felt itself secure, and the heavy Democratic majorities in some Southern States have caused that party to be less useful to the people than it would have been with a formidable opposition. There is no political axiom in which we more firmly believe than that which holds that the best of government is not possible where the dominant faction is conscious that it has nothing to fear from the opposition.

#### The Constitutional Amendment and Its Results.

The Suffrage Amendment adopted by the people of North Carolina two years ago was expected to eliminate the negro as a political factor. This it has done. The ratio of white voters to black voters last week was 40 to 1 against 2 to 1 heretofore. (And by the way, it is quite generally asserted that fully half the blacks voted this time with the party that disfranchised them.) But the elimination of the negro voter was only one of the promised results of the Amendment. The people were promised not a whit less clearly and unmistakably the elimination of the political evils that came into our political life with the advent of negro suffrage. Before negro suffrage, election frauds were unknown, and in 1900 we were promised that with the Amendment's virtual undoing of negro suffrage, trickery and fraud should cease. Before negro suffrage, our candidates discussed live political issues and gave their attention to measures calculated to build up our Commonwealth, and we were promised that with the virtual undoing of negro suffrage, the race issue would be shelved and we should have the old-time fairness, and discussion of matters affecting the development of the State and the prosperity of its people. Before negro suffrage, no man was abused or ostracised because of his political affiliations, and we were promised that with the virtual undoing of negro suffrage, there should like freedom of action and another era of peace and good feeling.

These were the things most surely expected among us, and it should not be treason to plead for them now. We believe that the campaign just ended has shown some progress toward these conditions, and we hope that they will yet come in all their hoped-for fullness. And as one reason for the faith that is in us, we are glad to print this week three brave messages that appeared in three influential North Carolina papers one day last week. And only the day before the organ of the largest religious denomination in our State concluded an able editorial on "The Era of Good Feeling" with these words:

"We have risen from the ashes of ruin; we have lived to glory in rather than to grieve over the graves of the soldiers that did not return; we have recovered from Reconstruction; we have relieved the blight of our vitiated suffrage. Now men of the South, let us also cast aside the spirit of political bitterness, and clothe our civilization in the ancient garments of glory—generosity, honor, reason, the love of fellowman, and high endeavor for all the people's good."

If North Carolina is ever to take her rightful position in the sisterhood of States and make the industrial and educational progress which she should make, it will be the result of the spirit manifested by the four editorials from which we have quoted.

The importance of the meeting of North Carolina county school superintendents to be held here this week is daily becoming more apparent. A program that promises to be of great value to all educators has been prepared, and it is now believed that 90 per cent of the county superintendents will attend in person. Besides these, teachers in private schools and all interested in education are asked to attend, and will find the meeting helpful.

Warrants were issued last week for the establishment of twelve new rural school libraries, as follows: Yancey, 6; Macon, 1; Perquimans, 1; Mitchell, 1; Mecklenburg, 1, and Haywood, 2.

Dr. Charles W. Burkett says that heretofore the ratio of agricultural students to all other students in the A. and M. College has been 1 to 15, but that this year it will be 1 to 4. There could be no more encouraging indication of North Carolina's agricultural progress.

#### A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.

There is a yet harder and higher heroism—to live well in the quiet routine of life; to fill a little space because God wills it; to go on cheerfully with a petty round of little duties, little occasions; to accept uncomplainingly a low position; to smile for the joys of others when the heart is aching; to banish all ambition, all pride, and all restlessness in a single regard for our Saviour's work. To do this for a lifetime is a greater effort, and he who does this is a greater hero than he who for one hour storms a breach, or for one day rushes undaunted in the flaming front of shot and shell. His works will follow him. He may not be a hero to the world, but he is one of God's heroes; and, though the builders of Nineveh and Babylon be forgotten and unknown, his memory shall live and be blessed.—Dean Farrar.

#### THREE BRAVE AND TIMELY MESSAGES FOR NORTH CAROLINIANS.

##### I. The Purity of the Ballot Must Be Protected.

And surely the duty of the hour is the enforcement, in the South, of the laws that protect the purity of the ballot. There is not even the false excuse that was once pleaded for the old methods of fraud. The destiny of the South is in the hands of its white citizens. The Anglo-Saxon love of fair play was once dulled by the consideration that a great wrong, unlimited negro suffrage, was being righted. It has been righted now.

And there will never be a surer way to divide the white people of the South than to have anything else hereafter than a free ballot and a fair count. There have been reports of unfair attempts to prevent the registration of some negroes who probably had as good an education as the registrars who denied them their right. There have been hints that yesterday's election in some Southern States was not to be fair. It ought to be proclaimed by party managers with a ring of sincerity that cannot be mistaken, that the election officials who perjure themselves by violating their oath of office shall go to the chain-gang or the penitentiary, as the laws may be—shall be treated like any other criminals anywhere.

It need not be said that the purity of the ballot is the foundation stone of free and responsible government. It has been made far purer than it was, by the disfranchisement of the ignorant and the incompetent. It should be guarded as sacredly henceforth as Southern men know how to guard the honor of a woman. Its enemy is the enemy of our civilization, and every honest and honorable man should help to see to it that the laws of truth and honor which such enemy would violate, shall administer to him the punishment of the perjurer.—Charlotte Presbyterian Standard, Nov. 6th.

##### II. Strife Behind Us, Let Us Hope for Peace and the Upbuilding of the State.

It were well if, at this juncture, when circumstances are so propitious, when the bow of promise is brighter in the sky than it was ever in all our history, there should be a universal resolution to put mere politics, especially small politics, away from the present, and give thought to the things which make for the uplifting of the people and for the general welfare. Material prosperity

is not to be despised; we have it now in larger measure than ever before; it is necessary to contentment and to the development of the best that is in a people. Let us, by industry and thrift, seek to enlarge it. But it is not all. Education is to be fostered; a larger charity to the unfortunate should be exercised; a better apprehension of the duties of citizenship deserves to be inculcated. It is a golden opportunity for the leaders of thought, for preachers, teachers and statesmen; and they will deserve well of their people and of future generations who embrace it and preach most effectively the gospel of civic as well as personal virtue and lead men to the contemplation of higher things. There could be no nobler ambition in the breast of a North Carolinian than that to do something for North Carolina, and there was never a time when more might be done. If those who love their State would but unite their efforts now, when the public mind is undisturbed and receptive, when safe political conditions are established and no danger threatens, there would be inaugurated an era like that in Rome, of which it was written:

"Then none was for a party—  
Then all were for the State;  
Then the great man helped the poor,  
And the poor man loved the great;  
Then lands were fairly portioned;  
Then spoils were fairly sold;  
The Romans were like brothers  
In the brave days of old."

—Charlotte Observer, Nov. 6th.

##### III. An Appeal for Freedom of Thought and Broader Issues.

It has been generally conceded that the elimination of the negro was most desirable, that issues might be discussed and the individual man be untrammelled by the racial questions on public issues. We believe that this much-desired condition will be yet accomplished. If the speeches of the Democratic leaders made in this city are to be taken as evidence, the Democratic campaign, though successful, was not conducted upon the high plane promised by the Constitutional Amendment. There was too much said in these speeches about the negro; too much of the Reconstruction era; too little of the live issues of today; too much of the dead past. It should have been conceded freely, as a fulfillment of the promise of the Constitutional Amendment, that men in this election should be at liberty to vote their convictions, without censure or ostracism. It is time to face to the front and consider upon their merit and to courageously support those issues which in our judgment will best serve the upbuilding of the material interests of our State. We cannot do this without dropping the prejudices of the past, and, with freedom of thought, alike to ourselves and to others, consider the issues and duties of the future. The highest duty of citizenship demands this of the people of this State in the future.

This paper is bold enough to say, what in the campaign of 1900 was so forcibly urged as a reason for adopting the Constitutional Amendment, that it is far better for the State at large that there should be two respectable parties in this State, to either of which a citizen might align himself, without feeling that he would be regarded any the less for his personal worth by his fellowmen. This is a condition that thoughtful and intelligent citizens much desire may be brought about. It is to be hoped that the campaign of two years hence may be fought by the respective parties boldly and courageously upon the fiscal issues alone. Each individual citizen should consider these solely with reference to the betterment of his State and Nation. We will have no normal condition of public affairs in North Carolina until the differences upon the great issues find their expression in a normal alignment to that political party, whichever it may be, that best represents the views of the individual voter.—Wilmington Messenger, Nov. 6th.